

GREATER ST. LOUIS FEDERAL EXECUTIVE BOARD

Greater St. Louis Federal Executive Board
Fiscal Year 2004 Annual Report
Ron Hindman, Chair

Executive Summary

Consolidating Our Gains was the theme for the Greater St. Louis Board's Fiscal Year 04 Strategic Plan. The theme reflected the advances made since the adoption of a five-year strategic plan in 2001. Each year the Executive Council and Board managed meetings, committees, and special events in line with the strategic plan fostering a track record of accomplishments and goals still to be met. Five of the most valued accomplishments of the year in the strategic plan framework are:

Training and Promoting Excellence-

"Managing the Unknown" was the program focus of the 2004 Executive Forum. The Forum is an annual event held jointly with the Kansas City Board. The Boards alternate years in which they design and implement the three-day event. The 2004 program included sessions featuring Dan Blair, Deputy Director of OPM, Thomas Jefferson, William Clark, the explorer, and Sandra Magnus, a NASA astronaut. Participants gave the program a close to perfect score.

Special Emphasis programming was revamped. The Board studied and then resolved to discontinue four special emphasis training programs. 2004 marked the last year for the stand-alone programs and award presentations. A committee was formed to begin planning for a single diversity training event to be held in 2005. The Board also reviewed the procedures used in staffing the special emphasis councils and the operations of each. The Board enacted several changes to put all of the councils on the same fiscal year as the Board. The Councils were reminded of the representational role they have for the agencies and the Board. The traditional awards will be consolidated in one category for the annual Excellence in Government program.

Community Service/Information-

Gateway Combined Federal Campaign was again the main initiative for community service. Two major undertakings were successfully completed. For only the second time in the campaign's history an organization other than the United Way was selected as the Principal Combined Fund Organization. In addition, the Board addressed the need to create a separate Local Federal Coordinating Committee. The Board modeled the Gateway LFCC charter on OPM's directives, and customized it to local requirements. All of the committee positions were filled with one exception. The LFCC was in place to provide oversight on the 2004 campaign. The creation of the LFCC was the final piece in creating the necessary infrastructure for the Combined Federal Campaign. OPM recognized the Gateway Campaign in May 2003 with an Innovator Award for the electronic system used in reviewing agency applications.

Member Services-

New Member Orientation--Twenty new representatives joined the Board during the fiscal year. The Board has 80 members so in one 12-month period there was 25% change in representation. Membership transition is clearly a challenge, and will continue to be with the pending retirement of many agency heads. The Board's new member lunch and orientation facilitated the introduction of truly new and some historically inactive members to the federal community. One visible result of that effort was the agreement of four new members to take positions on the Executive Council for the 2004-5 program year.

Focus the Meeting --represents the high priority assigned to ensuring that the quarterly Board meetings provide substantive instruction for agency heads and their senior staff. Three of the four programs related to the President's Management Agenda: Dr. David Chu addressed the Human Capital area with a discussion of proposed changes to the Department of Defense's personnel system; Michael Turk, OMB, and Chris Niederaemyer, USDA, outlined some of the critical points of E-Gov; and L. Reynolds Cahoon, spoke on specific E-Gov initiatives at the National Archives. The fourth meeting also met a significant goal to give members an opportunity to learn more about each other's operations. The Army Corps of Engineers hosted the Board for a visit to a lock and dam site and a trip from that site to the dock near downtown St. Louis. During the trip, the Deputy Commander, discussed a number of projects critical to the economy of the St. Louis area.

Accomplishments Related to the Federal Executive Board Goals:

Advance the Administration's Goals and Initiatives

Three of the quarterly meetings dealt specifically with an area of the President's Management Agenda. The annual Executive Forum included general sessions addressing human capital initiatives with a keynote address by the Deputy Director of OPM.

The Executive Council and Board had a number of briefings on COOP, and established a small team to assess the value of creating a COOP Working Group.

The Executive Council and Board have committed many hours of study and discussion to ways to improve the special emphasis agenda. Procedural changes have been made to the Council operations and the delivery of training.

Create and Advance Local Initiatives

The VA community (Medical Center, Records Center, Canteen Service, and Regional Office) hosted the 24th annual National Veterans Wheelchair Games. The Board supported the games with volunteers from many different agencies. Approximately 2000 federal employees, families and friends staffed the weeklong event. The 2004 games attracted over 650 athletes---the largest number of any games. ESPN broadcast the games, as did the FOX network. A number of federal agency heads and the executive director assisted with the presentation of medals.

The Chair of the Board signed an Employer Support for the Guard and Reserve Proclamation to demonstrate the federal government's contribution of and support for employees serving in Guard and Reserve units.

The Hispanic Employment Program Council participated in two job fairs to raise awareness of local federal jobs targeted for bilingual applicants.

The annual Excellence in Government Awards generated 130 individual and team nominations from over 30 agencies. Over 450 people attended the awards breakfast highlighted by remarks from Allison Collinger, Director of Corporate Relations and Community Outreach for the St. Louis Rams. MG Butch Pair, USTRANSCOM, also attended. He noted in a letter to the Executive Director his great appreciation for the outstanding quality of the event.

The Board continued its partnership with the St. Louis RAMS, St. Louis City Schools, the St. Louis Sports Commission, and Fair St. Louis. During the year, a number of federal employees volunteered to assist with many different community events.

The RAMS enlisted the Executive Director's help to distribute tickets to playoff and exhibition games to active military, Guard and Reserve personnel who had been or would be deployed to Afghanistan and Iraq. For one game a large contingent of civilians employed by the Corps of Engineers were saluted for their service in Iraq.

The Executive Director continues to serve on the Diversity Awareness Partnership Governing Board. As a result of the Executive Director's encouragement the Partnership created a subcommittee on Disability Awareness, and launched an initiative to assist elementary school teachers work with children to better understand and accommodate classmates with both physical and mental disabilities.

Provide Information, Referrals and Guidance for Intergovernmental and Community Outreach

OPM has posted the Gateway Campaign Scope of Work on its CFC web site as a model document for other campaigns to use.

Assisted IRS with job referrals and placement assistance for employment office that was downsized.

Supported the annual Small Business Week Committee by encouraging federal agencies to participate in the full range of events held during Small Business Week. Executive Director served as member of committee, and worked on ways to improve community outreach.

The Executive Director met with the Nashville Federal Executive Association to discuss techniques for building leadership support and increasing the effectiveness of the Combined Federal Campaign. Both Memphis and Nashville FEAs receive regular correspondence and announcements on a wide range of Board activity.

On a number of occasions the Executive Director distributed federal job announcements, private sector positions, internships to a wide range of contacts. Many of these requests were also posted on the Board's web site.

The Executive Director is a member of OPMs national advisory committee for CFC, and a volunteer "expert" to assist other campaigns particularly with issues related to scope of work and the annual external audit.

The Executive Director received an Innovator Award from the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency for efforts to improve the Gateway Combined Federal Campaign and the Federal Executive Board. NGA is the Board's support agency.

CFC Results: the 2004 pledge amounts have surpassed the 2003 pledges and the total is over \$2.9million. Truly significant is the volunteer support the agencies provided. The campaign had a record number of Campaign Representatives and the Labor Chair who was an active leader in all aspects of the campaign invigorated the support from the Labor unions.